

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1, 5, 7 and 9-11 are now present in the application. The specification and claims 1, 5, 7 and 9-11 have been amended. Claims 2-4, 6 and 8 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 5, 7, 9 and 10 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that dependent claims 3, 5, 7 and 9-11 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant greatly appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner.

By the present amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 2 and 3. Claims 5, 7, 9 and 10 have been rewritten in independent forms to include all of the limitations of the base claim 1 and their respective intervening claims.

Accordingly, it is believed that independent claims 1, 5, 7, 9 and 10 and dependent claim 11 are in condition for allowance.

Specification Objections

The specification has been objected to due to the presence of minor informalities. In view of the foregoing amendments, in which the Examiner's helpful suggestions have been followed, it is respectfully submitted that this objection has been addressed.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that this objection has been obviated and/or rendered moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Drawings Objections

The drawings have been objected under 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5). Applicant respectfully submits that, in view of the foregoing amendments to the specification, this objection has been obviated and/or rendered moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 9-11 have been objected to due to the presence of minor informalities. In view of the foregoing amendments, in which the Examiner's helpful suggestions have been followed, it is respectfully submitted that this objection has been addressed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In view of the foregoing amendments, in which the Examiner's helpful suggestions have been followed, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection has been

addressed. Accordingly, all pending claims are now definite and clear. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, are therefore respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Chung, U.S. Patent No. 5,390,350. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Tokunaga, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0095609. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As mentioned, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 2 and 3, which were indicated by the Examiner as including allowable subject matter. In addition, claims 2, 4, 6 and 8 have been cancelled. Therefore, these rejections have been obviated and/or rendered moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but merely to show the state of the prior art, no further comments are necessary with respect thereto.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

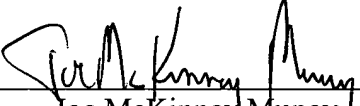
In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Joe McKinney Muncy, Registration No. 32,334 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant respectfully petitions for a two (2) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application and the required fee of \$450.00 is attached herewith.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Joe McKinney Muncy
Reg. No. 32,334
Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP
P. O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

KM/GH/mmi
3313-1058P

